

Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 011019Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6719

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 7270

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN/DPRK RELATIONS

REF: A. SEOUL 6975 B. CANBERRA 7170

1. AMBASSADOR BOURCHIER GAVE ME A FEW FURTHER DETAILS ON OPENING OF AUSTRALIAN AND DPRK MISSIONS IN PYONGYANG AND CANBERRA. DPRK HAS REQUESTED VISAS FOR SEVEN PEOPLE AND BOURCHIER ANTICIPATES THEY WILL BE ISSUED IN ABOUT A WEEK. HE EXPECTED DPRK GROUP TO ARRIVE IN CANBERRA IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. I POINTED OUT THAT GIVEN CLOSE PROXIMITY OF DPRK ARRIVAL TO UNGA DEBATE, DELAYING FORMER FOR SEVERAL ADDITIONAL WEEKS WOULD NOT SEEM TO BE TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM. COURCHIER DID NOT CONTEST THIS POINT, BUT INDICATED THAT GOA NOT INCLINED TO DELAY ANY FURTHER AS REPORTED REF B. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT FONMIN KIM DONG JO STILL TALKING ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING ROK AMB FROM CANBERRA WHEN DPRK GROUP ARRIVES.

2. BOURCHIER CONFIRMED THAT GOA SATISFIED WITH ACCOMMODATIONS BY DPRK OFFERED FOR "SMALL SIZED MISSION." HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR FOR SOME TIME AND, IN FACT, THOUGHT CHARGE MIGHT NOT ARRIVE IN PYONGYANG FOR THREE OR FOUR MONTHS.

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3. COMMENT: I WONDER WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE

TO CONVINCE GOA TO HOLD OFF DPRK ARRIVAL UNTIL AFTER
UNGA DEBATE, GIVEN ONLY BRIEF DELAY INVOLVED. APPARENTLY,
DPRK PLACES SOME VALUE IN HAVING ITS MISSION IN PLACE
IN CANBERRA BEFORE UNGA DEBATE OPENS.
SNEIDER

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